

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

UNCLAS ROME 8048

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (FORD, GERALD), PFOR, IT

SUBJ: PRESIDENTIAL VISIT STATEMENTS: PRESIDENT FORD'S
DEPARTURE STATEMENT

1. FOLLOWING IS FULL TEXT OF PRESIDENT FORD'S DEPARTURE
STATEMENT, JUNE 3 AT LEONARDO DA VINCI (FIUMICINO) AIRPORT,
INFORMALLY TRANSLATED BY THE EMBASSY FROM THE ITALIAN TEXT
CARRIED BY ANSA, THE ITALIAN NEWS AGENCY.

2. "ON LEAVING ITALY, MRS. FORD AND I WANT TO EXPRESS OUR
DEEPEST GRATITUDE TO YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, TO SIGNORA LEONE,
TO COUNCIL PRESIDENT MORO, TO THE GOVERNMENT AND TO ALL
THE ITALIAN PEOPLE FOR THE MAGNIFICENT WELCOME ACCORDED US
DURING OUR VISIT. THE HUMAN WARMTH WITH WHICH WE HAVE BEEN
RECEIVED, THE CORDIAL AND PRODUCTIVE TALKS WE HAVE HAD WITH
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THE HIGHEST AUTHORITIES OF THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT, AND ALSO

THE FRIENDSHIP AND THE GOOD-WILL MANIFESTED EVERYWHERE CONCERNING THE UNITED STATES, HAVE MADE THIS DAY A MEMORABLE EXPERIENCE FOR US. FOR MORE THAN 25 YEARS ITALY AND THE UNITED STATES HAVE HAD IDENTICAL VIEWS, WORKING AS DEMOCRATIC COUNTRIES SHARING THE SAME IDEALS, WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF OBTAINING A DURABLE PEACE AND SOLID PROSPERITY FOR OUR PEOPLES. WE HAVE WORKED TOGETHER WITHIN NATO IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN THE PEACE AND TO GUARANTEE STABILITY IN EUROPE AND IN THE MEDITERRANEAN. WE CAN BE VERY SATISFIED WITH ALL THE SUCCESSES THAT WE HAVE HAD. AS REGARDS THE RESULTS OF THE MEETINGS IN ROME, I HAVE FULL CONFIDENCE THAT THE UNITED STATES AND ITALY TOGETHER, AS ASSOCIATES IN THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE, WILL MEET WITH SIMILAR SUCCESS IN CONFRONTING THE DIFFICULT PROBLEMS WHICH LIE BEFORE US. IN THIS WAY, WE CAN CONTRIBUTE TO THE PROSPECT OF A PEACEFUL AND PROSPEROUS LIFE FOR ALL THE PEOPLES OF THE WORLD. AGAIN, IN THE NAME OF MRS. FORD, AND FOR MYSELF, I REPEAT OUR MOST SINCERE THANKS; WE HAVE ENJOYED YOUR MAGNIFICENT HOSPITALITY, THE KINDNESS AND THE COURTESY THAT WE HAVE MET AT ALL LEVELS DURING EVERY MOMENT OF OUR STAY. WHILE WE PREPARE TO LEAVE THIS MOST BEAUTIFUL COUNTRY, THERE COMES TO MIND A PROVERB THAT GOES: GOOD MEMORIES EASE THE PAIN OF DEPARTURE. SO WE CANNOT LEAVE ITALY WITH A FEELING OF SADNESS BECAUSE WITHIN OUR HEARTS WE CARRY TOO MANY MARVELOUS MEMORIES OF THE VERY SPECIAL DAY WE HAVE SPENT WITH SUCH DEAR FRIENDS".VOLPE

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